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Monitoring Report for Bald Eagles at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, MD

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Monitoring Report for Bald Eagles at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, MD

2012 Monitoring Report for Federal Fish and Wildlife Eagle Scientific Collecting Permit MB207511-1

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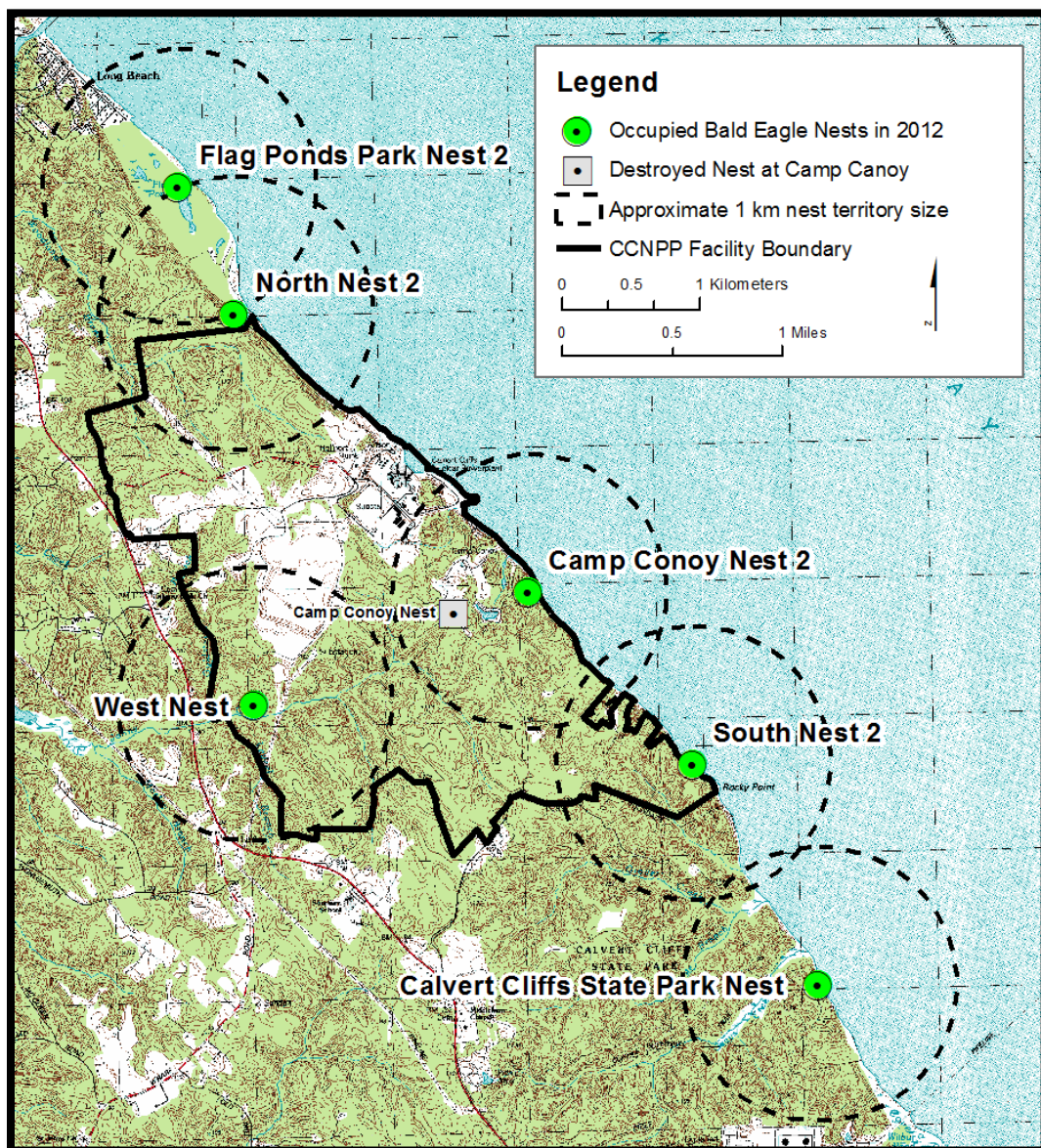
Background

Under Migratory Bird permit MB207511-1, a Bald Eagle nest was removed in the non-breeding season (10/9/2009) from the construction site of a new reactor at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant (CCNPP), in Calvert County, Maryland. This report fulfills the final annual monitoring reporting requirement of the permit which expired in March 2012.

Methods

For the fourth year in a row, CCNPP and surrounding properties were monitored by two observers in a 172 Cessna plane flying approximately 200-500' above the nest. Presence of adult eagles, nest contents, and condition of each nest structure were recorded.

Figure 1. Bald Eagle nests monitored during the 2012 breeding season.



Results

We monitored 4 eagle nesting territories on CCNPP and 2 territories on adjacent land for breeding attempts (Table 1). Two nesting territories on CCNPP successfully raised young in 2012 (West and North nests). A new breeding pair established a nest within the Camp Conoy territory in a tree we modified in 2009 to attract eagles outside the construction area. The new nest is approximately 1800' from the nest we removed in 2009.

Two nests on surrounding public lands were active during the 2012 breeding season. The territory north of CCNPP on Flag Ponds Park had a new nest this year after the 2011 nest was destroyed by storms. This pair successfully raised 2 young. The nest on Calvert Cliffs State Park just south of the CCNPP boundary raised 2 chicks in 2012.

Table 1. Aerial flight observations for Bald Eagle nests surveyed on Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant and surrounding properties.

Location	12/15/2011	1/14/2012	3/4/2012	5/6/2012
Calvert Cliffs State Park	nest well lined but not new, one adult observed	no adults, nest maintained	incubating	2 chicks 45 days old, one adult in nest
Camp Conoy	no adults seen, no nest	no adults seen, no nest		
Camp Conoy 2			pair present, nest building	nest empty, nest completely built
Flag Ponds Park	nest absent	nest absent	nest absent	nest absent
Flag Ponds Park 2	new nest in red maple, no adults	new nest in red maple, no adults	incubating	2 chicks 45 days old
North Nest	nest well lined but not new, no adults observed	no adults, nest maintained	nest empty, good condition	raccoon in nest
North nest 2				2 chicks 14 days old
South Nest	nest in poor condition	remnant	nest empty	nest empty
South Nest 2	Nest maintained and minimal new lining, 2 adults present	1 adult perched nearby, new lining in nest	1 adult perched in the tree, nest in good condition	nest empty but in good shape, 1 adult eagle perched on shoreline
West Nest	New sticks and lining in nest. No adults observed	no adults, nest maintained	incubating	2 chicks, 45 days old